

understand and appreciate the courage and contributions of these selfless heroes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2002, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I call upon all the people of the United States to join me in remembering former American prisoners of war by honoring the memory of their sacrifices. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

#### **Proclamation 7539 of April 10, 2002**

#### **National D.A.R.E. Day, 2002**

*By the President of the United States of America  
A Proclamation*

Illegal drugs are the enemy of ambition and hope, destroying individual lives and undermining the health of our communities. In addition to the tragic consequences of drug use for Americans and their families, the drug trade supports terrorist networks that threaten our country and our allies around the world. When we fight the war on drugs, we also fight the war on terror.

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) curriculum plays an important role in helping our young people understand the many reasons to avoid drugs. D.A.R.E. is a series of lessons, taught by specially-trained police officers, that encourages students to live healthy, drug-free lives. According to the University of Akron Institute for Health and Social Policy, the program operates in 80 percent of our school districts, reaching 26 million young people in America each year. In addition to promoting the right decisions about drugs, D.A.R.E. helps build relationships among parents, teachers, law enforcement officers, and others interested in preventing drug use in their communities.

My Administration is committed to keeping the fight against drugs among our Nation's top priorities. I have proposed new goals for our country, including a 10 percent reduction in teenage and adult drug use over the next 2 years, and a 25 percent reduction over 5 years. My National Drug Control Strategy is a community-based approach, incorporating three core principles: (1) stopping drug use before it starts; (2) healing America's drug users; and (3) disrupting the market for drugs in our country. In addition, my 2003 budget proposes \$19.2 billion for drug control. This includes \$3.8 billion for drug treatment and research, an increase of more than 6 percent over 2002.

Drugs attack everything that is best about our country, robbing Americans, young and old, and their families of dignity and character. Today, we recognize D.A.R.E. as a critical part in our effort to teach young people how to avoid drug use and the devastating effects that drugs can inflict upon their health and on their future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 11, 2002, as National D.A.R.E. Day. I call upon youth, parents, educators, and all Americans to observe this day by joining the fight against drugs in your communities. I also encourage our citizens to express appreciation for the law enforcement officers, volunteers, and others who work to help young people avoid the dangers of drug use.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

#### **Proclamation 7540 of April 12, 2002**

#### **Pan American Day and Pan American Week, 2002**

*By the President of the United States of America*

##### *A Proclamation*

Pan America comprises a set of regional relationships that connects the nations of the Western Hemisphere in an increasingly interdependent network of commercial and cultural communities. Every nation in Pan America, with one notable exception, is committed to promoting freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. Over the past year, the Pan American nations have become increasingly united in purpose, seeking to ensure the preservation of the freedoms inherent in democracy, to promote good governance, to enhance economic development across the hemisphere, to protect human rights, and to combat terrorism, transnational crime, and narcotics trafficking. Continued progress in achieving these goals will greatly improve the future of the Americas.

As a testament to the enduring spirit of cooperation that binds us together as citizens of North, Central, and South America, the Pan American nations have built a common front against the threat of terrorism. Meeting in consultation on September 19, 2001, the Organization of American States (OAS) Permanent Council invoked the Rio Treaty, declaring that the terrorist attacks of September 11, were attacks against all of the Americas. Later that same month, the OAS Foreign Ministers called for measures to strengthen hemispheric cooperation and adopted binding commitments, demonstrating that this hemisphere is prepared to guard the freedoms that form the foundation of democracy.

This firm response to the terrorist acts followed another milestone for the region, namely, the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. In approving this document by acclamation, the nations of the Western Hemisphere established democracy as the birthright of every person in the Americas. The words of this charter affirm that govern-